

DECISION RECORD/RATIONALE/FONSI
Grayback Mountain Trail Construction - Phase 1
(EA # OR110-00-26)

I. DECISION: Implement the proposed action for Phase 1 of the Grayback Mountain Trail as described in Environmental Assessment (EA# OR 110-00-26). Implementation of this decision will include all project design features as described in the environmental assessment. As noted in the proposal, this trail will be open to hiking and equestrian-use. It will not be open to bicycle or motorized vehicle use.

As noted in the EA, further site specific analysis of Phases 2 and 3 described in the EA will be conducted in the future and decisions specific to these Phases will be made in the future. Permissible uses for the entire trail will also be further evaluated at this future time.

II. RATIONALE: This project is a part of the implementation of the Medford District RMP. The Grayback Mountain Trail was identified in the RMP as one of 16 trails to be developed as a part of providing for recreational opportunities on BLM administered lands. The proposal described in the present EA will extend the initial section constructed in 1990 and move the long term project towards its goal of connecting the Williams Valley to the regional trail systems to the south (Boundary Trail, Red Buttes Trail, Pacific Crest Trail). Implementation of Phase 1 at this time will also provide the opportunity to construct this part of the trail under the auspices of the National Trails Day Program for 2000.

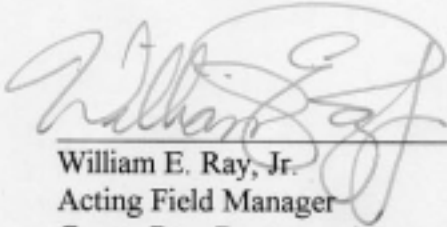
This action incorporates several project design features which minimize short and long term adverse effects of the actions to be implemented. Phase 1 of this project addressed here, while only a part of the long range plan for the trail, can stand alone on its own merits regardless of the ultimate routing chosen as discussed in the EA. No adverse cumulative effects have been identified that would result from the either Phase 1 or the long term Grayback trail project.

The No Action Alternative was rejected because it does not meet the RMP's objective for developing additional recreational opportunities on BLM lands.

This decision is consistent with the Medford District Resource Management Plan and the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. This decision is also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, The Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations.

III. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: On the basis of the information contained in the environmental assessment for the subject project, it is my determination that the decision stated above does not constitute significant effects to the quality of the human environment. In addition this project does not exceed the range of effects discussed in the EIS documents that the project EA is tiered. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

In accordance with the BLM Forest Management Regulation 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies, the effective date of the decision will be the date of publication of the Notice of Decision and FONSI in The Grants Pass Daily Courier. Any protest must be made in accordance with 43 CFR 5003.3.



William E. Ray, Jr.
Acting Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area
Medford District, Bureau of Land Management

9-5-00

Date